

UVSC Asks for New Campus

Regents Get Input on UVSC

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LIFESTYLE EDITOR

HEBER - A rapid increase in students at Utah Valley State College's Heber City campus prompted the State Board of Regents to hold a meeting in Heber on Wednesday, August 4 to discuss the future of Utah Valley State College's Heber City campus with select members of the community.

Approximately fifty people gathered at the invitation-only meeting on UVSC's Wasatch campus, including students, faculty members, community officials and members of the business community. The goal of the meeting was to get public feedback and answer questions regarding the need for and feasibility of a larger facility for the four-year college.

"We believe there is a growing demand in Wasatch county for higher education," said UVSC President, Kerry Romsberg. "We intend to have a permanent facility at the Wasatch campus."

Currently, UVSC leases two buildings just behind Main Street between 100 South and 200 South for its classrooms. A third classroom building will be added across 100 South for the fall semester.

While community support is strong for a permanent facility in Wasatch County for the college, Charles Johnson, Chairman of the State Board of Regents indicated that state funds might not be as easily acquired. Presently funds for education are on the decline in Utah, dropped in favor of infrastructure and corrections spending.



Currently UVSC's Wasatch campus occupies three small buildings just east of Main Street in Heber. The school is in the process of trying to convince the State Board of Regents to allocate funds for a larger facility in Wasatch County. Enrollment at the UVSC Heber campus has increased to over 500 students in the past four years.

According to Utah state senator, Beverly Evans, present at the August 4 meeting, the state legislature—the entity responsible for allocating tax dollars, responds to pressure groups. Lately advocacy groups for education have not been as strong in the past, therefore the perceived public desire for education spending is not as strong and ultimately state funding has been allocated elsewhere.

Utah Valley State College, the fastest-growing college

in the state, opened its Heber City campus in January, 1995, serving a total of 65 students. By January, 1999, the campus had grown to nearly 500 students and offers Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in Heber City.

Courier Editorial

Legislative Auditors Will Conduct Independent Review of County

The gears of justice may grind slowly, but they do grind in Wasatch County. Last week members of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General were making the rounds talking to area newspapers as well as prominent government officials before they had their first visit with the county commissioners on Tuesday of this week.

Wasatch County welcomes their visit and hopes they can bring legal closure to many of the allegations of corruption and malfeasance that have plagued this county for decades.

In the first five issues of this paper we have uncovered evidence of possible illegal contracts, illegal purchasing policies, illegal closed meetings, illegal appropriations of funds and many other questionable activities. We suspect that with the resources of the state behind them the legislative auditors can conduct a far more comprehensive review of county government activities than a newspaper ever could. We suspect that there are many more questionable activities that have yet to be uncovered.

agencies to help them in their investigation. When they find evidence of wrongdoing they can forward the evidence to the Attorney General of the state. Or if the allegations of wrongdoing are not true, they can clear the names of the parties involved.

We remain convinced that the vast majority of our public servants are good and honest people who are only interested in doing the right thing. But we suspect that in many cases, such as with the open meeting laws, they just don't know what the right thing is.

By cooperating with this independent legislative audit the commissioners can help restore the people's faith in their government. We also hope that while this investigation is going on the commissioners won't resort to political attacks against them. Legislative auditors cannot defend themselves since they are bound by law from discussing their on-going investigations. Wasatch County should not emulate to the sordid behavior of Washington politics.

If high political standards are maintained throughout this investigation the

Developments bring wealth to the area

As I've visited with new residents around the valley over the last couple months I've heard story after story about how some current residents have tried to frustrate their development as they've moved into the valley. I know development is a dirty word in many small communities, but not all development is bad.

In fact, most modern development occurs because existing residents want to enjoy the wealth that was created with the appreciation of their property. When they sell to developers or subdivide their land for their own children and grandchildren, they are only doing what they have a right to do.

Many existing residents have resented this "selling out" and have tried to stop it with verbal abuse or manipulation of zoning laws and building permits. Past abuses by prejudiced locals will eventually result in lawsuits.

In an early draft of the Declaration of Independence the founding fathers had originally written something like "life, liberty and the pursuit of property" instead of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Obviously, they felt the right to have property was almost synonymous with happiness.

As long as people don't infringe on the

the supply of available homes is way too low. And rents equal or exceed those in the exclusive Avenues in Salt Lake City for the same reason. It's all about supply and demand.

As long as old-time residents want to sell and new residents want to buy, there will be development. So the question shouldn't be whether there should be development at all, but how it should be handled.

Properly executed master plans for cities and towns can make sure that communities retain their positive qualities without becoming urban sprawls like the Salt Lake City metropolitan area.

Heber J. Grant once said that Heber Valley would be a great resort community. And it definitely has the potential. There are three reservoirs, a historic train, scenic mountain recreation areas, golf courses, ski resorts, snowmobiling trails, world-



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